

legal publishers, news organizations, educational institutions, and Government agencies moments after the materials are released. GPO makes this information public through its Federal Bulletin Board. The Court's new Web site did not replace the Hermes system, and access to orders and "bench" opinions of the Court continues to be provided through a link to the Federal Bulletin Board. Slip opinions are posted on the new Web site within hours after the "bench" opinions are transmitted to Hermes subscribers.

GPO's provision of technical support for the Supreme Court Web site demonstrates the variety of Web services GPO offers to its customers, including Web hosting, page design, page hosting, publishing, publishing training, site design, and site hosting services. In addition to the Court site, GPO hosts 17 Web sites for other Federal entities, including the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, the General Accounting Office, and the Office of Management and Budget.

GPO-Designed Publication Wins Award

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced that *Medical Guidelines*, a brochure series designed by GPO's Typography and Design Division for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services, was selected to receive a Federal Design Achievement Award.

The award was in the Graphic Design category of the Presidential Design Awards 2000, fifth Quadrennial Competition, which recognizes excellence in Federal design in a variety of fields. A jury of designers, engineers, and architects selected the series from among 332 entries, which were evaluated using the criteria of purpose, leadership, performance, aesthetics, and cost.

The project was one of only 35 to receive the NEA's highest award. The award was presented in April 2000, at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Clean Opinion Received in Independent Audit of FY 1999 Finances

For the third consecutive year, GPO received an "unqualified opinion" in a comprehensive, independent audit of its financial operations, completed in early 2000 by the nationally recognized accounting firm KPMG LLP.

Under contract with the General Accounting Office, KPMG conducted a thorough audit of GPO's financial statements for FY 1999, concluding that they "are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles."

An "unqualified opinion" is "the highest level of assurance that an audit firm can give on financial statements," said Paul M. Geraty, KPMG partner and spokesman for the auditing team, in reporting his findings to GPO officials. Geraty reiterated that the audit results were "very, very positive."

The FY 1999 audit was the third consecutive financial audit since an annual audit requirement for GPO was enacted by Congress in 1996.

The KPMG audit "noted no instances of material noncompliance with laws and regulations we tested," although it recommended the establishment of certain data processing controls. The 1999 financial audit findings continued GPO's trend of "unqualified" audit opinions—the best that auditors can issue. KPMG audits of GPO's 1997 and 1998 finances each produced an "unqualified" opinion.

The recent financial audits followed a sweeping management audit of GPO by Booz-Allen & Hamilton, Inc., in 1998. In addition to validating strong customer support for GPO's operations in Congress, Federal agencies, and the public, Booz-Allen concluded that "the financial management history at GPO demonstrates that the agency has had considerable experience as a business-oriented operation." Booz-Allen also said "GPO has been a leader in providing Congress accrual-based accounting and financial statements," noting that the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 requires all executive branch agencies to implement accrual-based accounting systems.

On March 6, 2000, the *Washington Post* reported that “only half of the top 24 federal agencies have won ‘clean’ opinions from the government’s inspectors general for their FY 1999 financial statements, according to a preliminary assessment by congressional and administration officials.”

Printing Support for Census 2000

Working with the Census Bureau, GPO provided the printed forms and other products needed to conduct Census 2000, the national head count of more than 275 million people in 120 million households in the U.S., including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island areas.

For nearly 2 years, GPO used its competitive printing procurement program to place orders throughout the Nation’s commercial printing industry for the products that were used to conduct the decennial census.

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Overall, GPO awarded more than 80 contracts totaling more than \$65 million to print 398 million questionnaires and other public use forms, not including other printing for promotional purposes, use in the Nation’s schools, and for other census activities.

Contracts were awarded for short form and long form versions of the mail-out questionnaires, update/questionnaires, and enumerator questionnaires. GPO also let contracts for the printing of “be counted” questionnaires, advance letters, reminder cards, language assistance guides, and other questionnaires and public use forms. The mail-out and “be counted” questionnaires were printed in 6 different languages (English, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog), and foreign language guides in 49 different languages were produced to assist in filling out the printed questionnaires. GPO also contracted for the production of “large print” guides for the forms. In addition, GPO awarded contracts for a variety of advertising,

promotional, and educational materials for use in increasing public awareness of the census.

This work was performed by dozens of private sector contractors in 17 states, including California, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Maryland, Kentucky, Kansas, Tennessee, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Florida, Texas, and Missouri, as well as the District of Columbia.

The Census Bureau estimated that printing the 398 million forms required 14,000 tons of paper and 15,000 gallons of ink. This work, like all printing performed under GPO contracts, required the use of recycled paper and vegetable oil-based ink.

2000 Edition of the “Plum Book”

GPO prepared the 2000 edition of *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, better known to Federal job seekers as the “Plum Book.” The book was made available to the public the day after the Presidential election.

Issued every 4 years after the Presidential election, the “Plum Book” includes a listing of those positions throughout the Federal Government that may be subject to non-competitive appointment. There are over 7,000 positions listed in the 2000 “Plum Book.” The “Plum Book” is published alternately by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Reform. For 2000, the responsibility fell to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and the “Plum Book” was issued as Senate Print 106-54 with a plum-colored cover.

Printed copies of the “Plum Book” were offered for sale by GPO. GPO also made the information available free of charge online via **GPO Access**, at www.access.gpo.gov/plumbook/2000/index.html.

New GPO Style Manual Prepared

During 2000, GPO prepared the 29th edition of the *United States Government Printing Office Style Manual*, the first update to this authoritative guide since 1984. The new edition was released in December 2000 in print and online formats at www.access.gpo.gov/styleman/2000/style001.html. The *GPO Style Manual* is issued under the authority